

Presbyterian Church
Lawrenceville, Mercer County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-53

HABS
N.J.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Presbyterian Church
Lawrenceville, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: The Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of
Lawrenceville

Date of Erection: 1764, enlarged 1833

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of stories: Two

Materials of construction: Foundation stone, no basement
provided

Exterior - large size brick

Interior walls - wainscot sill
high and plaster from there to
the ceiling; the ceiling plastered
with heavy plaster cornice; the
interior woodwork white

Roof - pitch, black slate over
wood shingles

Historical Data:

The Lawrenceville Church was organized in 1698.
The first church was erected in 1713 and was 45 feet by
32 feet. In this building the Hunterdon County Court sat
in 1716. George Whitefield records in his diary for 1739
that he preached to 1500 people from a wagon in front of
the church. The old church was razed in 1764, and the

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present edifice was erected in that year. The church was enlarged in 1833, so that it measured 45 feet by 60 feet, and in 1853 fifteen feet was added to the length.

The baptismal records of the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia contain the names of the baptisms at Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville) for 1713 and 1714. Among those baptized was John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In December 1777, we are told the Hessians compelled a captured American militiaman to preach them a sermon in the Lawrenceville Church.

Bibliography:

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Beginning of Lawrenceville Presbyterian
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Society Volume XII (October 1924) pages 85-86

Harry G. Aitken, Mercer County Supervisor

Walter Christ
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.T.A.
District Officer

Rev. Aug. 20, '36, T.T.W.